

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 IO-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01 PM-03

RSC-01 SP-01 /038 W

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R 281110Z NOV 74

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 183

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 2176

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, GE, UR

SUBJECT: NOVEMBER 13 SOVIET STATEMENT ON EXFILTRATION

REF: (A) STATE 256998; USBERLIN 2002

1. IN COURSE OF RECENT CONVERSATION ON BERLIN MATTERS, SOVIET EMBASSY PROTOCOL OFFICER ROMANOVSKIY COMMENTED TO MISSION OFFICER THAT IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION, AND THAT OF MOST OF HIS COLLEAGUES, THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN ALLIED MISSIONS AND SOVIET EMBASSY WERE IN PARTICULARLY GOOD SHAPE. ONLY SERIOUS IRRITANT WAS RECURRENT INVOLVEMENT OF U.S. SERVICEMEN IN EXFILTRATION ATTEMPS, WHICH RAISED PROBLEMS FOR EMBASSY IN ITS RELATIONS WITH GDR AUTHORITIES. ROMANOVSKIY INQUIRED, IN THIS CONNECTION, WHETHER MISSION OFFICER WAS AWARE OF NEW PROTEST STATEMENT ON EXFILTRATION THAT HAD BEEN DELIVERED TO DEPARTMENT BY SOVIET EMBASSY WASHINGTON ON NOVEMBER 13 (REF A). MISSION OFFICER REPLIED THAT HE HAD HEARD ABOUT STATEMENT. ROMANOVSKIY SAID THAT SOVIET EMBASSY EAST
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BERLIN, FOR ITS PART, HAD BEEN SATISFIED WITH APPROACH

MADE TO US MISSION ON OCTOBER 31 REGARDING OCTOBER 10 AND 14 EXFILTRATION ATTEMPTS (REF B), AND HAD BEEN OPPOSED TO ESCALATING LEVEL OF PROTEST. MOSCOW, HOWEVER, HAD OVERRIDDEN THIS ADVICE AND HAD INSTRUCTED SOVIET EMBASSY WASHINGTON TO MAKE APPROACH TO DEPART-. MENT, USING LANGUAGE THAT EMBASSY EAST BERLIN CONSIDERED INAPPROPRIATE. ROMANOVSKIY URGED, NONETHELESS, THAT EFFECTIVE MEASURES BE TAKEN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO END U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN EXFILTRATION AND THEREBY REMOVE WHAT HE SAID WAS SOLE PRESENT IRRITANT TO HARMONIOUS US-SOVIET RELATIONS IN BERLIN.

2. POLAD INFORMED SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELLOR RODIN DURING PARTY AT SOVIET EMBASSY NOVEMBER 27, WITHOUT GOING INTO DETAIL, THAT FOLLOWING INVESTIGATION BY US AUTHORITIES, PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN OCTOBER 10 AND 14 INCIDENTS HAD BEEN PUNISHED FOR VIOLATIONS OF US REGULATIONS (REF B)SELIGMANN

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Message Attributes

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